SPECIAL

Heavy Hitters EDITION

MARVEL COMICS

epic comics

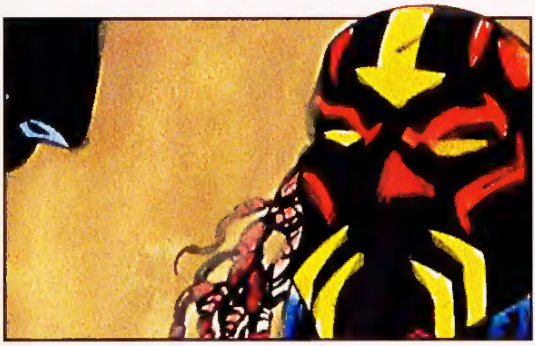
FREE #3 MAY

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL SPOTLIGHT

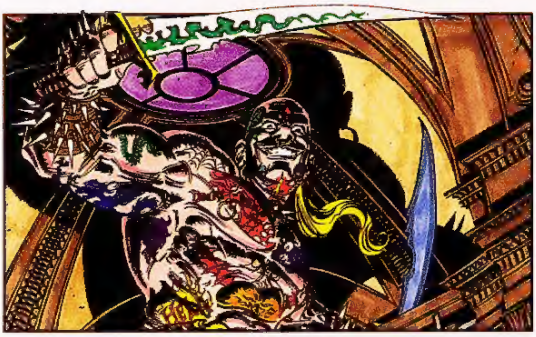
IN THE SPOTLIGHT THIS MONTH:

ALIEN LEGION'S NEWEST RECRUIT...



MIKE VOSBURG IS OFF AND RUNNING!

THE REAL STORY BEHIND MIKE BARON AND MARK NELSON'S FEUD!



MIKE BARON AND BILL REINHOLD GET SPYKED!

COURTESY OF:

ONE PLANET AT A TIME

ALIEN LEGION

Writer: Chuck Dixon
Penciler: Huang Nguyen
Inker: Scott Hanna

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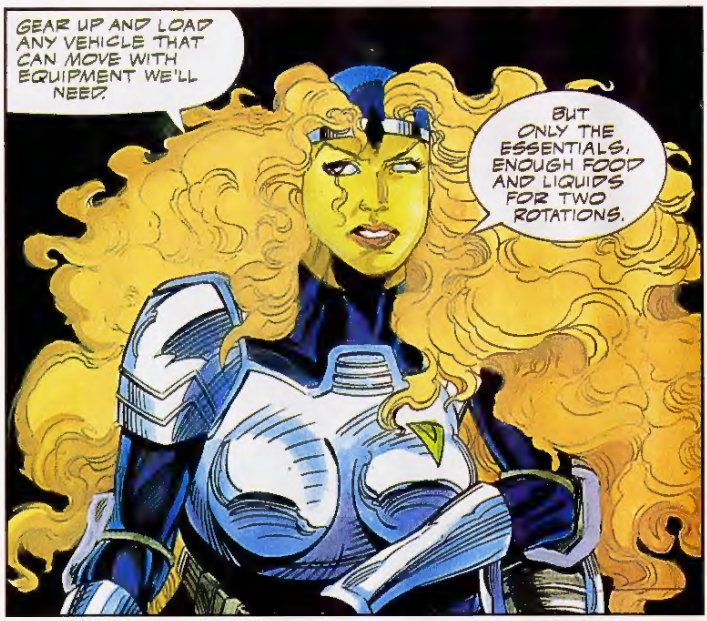
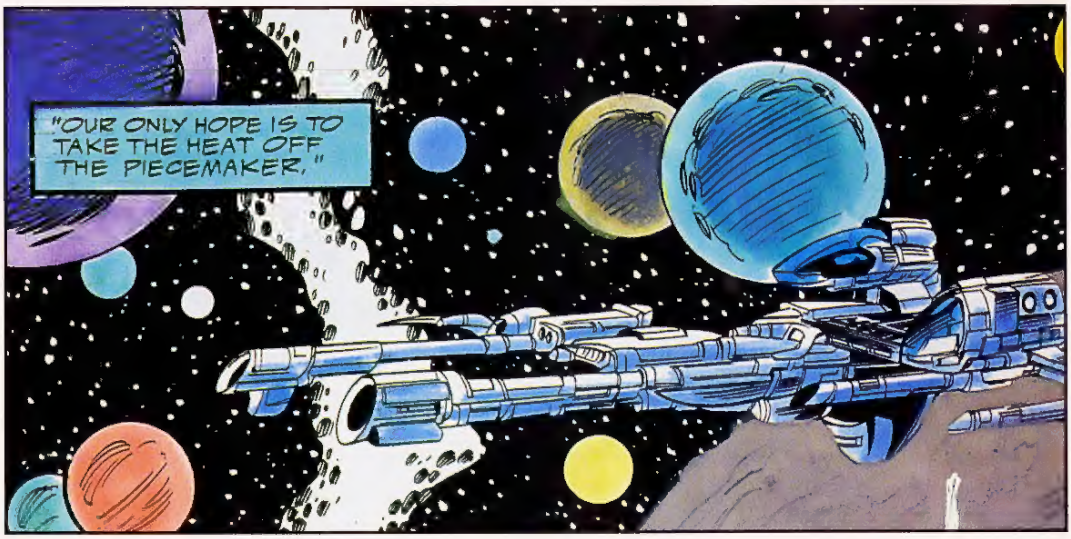
3 ISSUE LIMITED SERIES

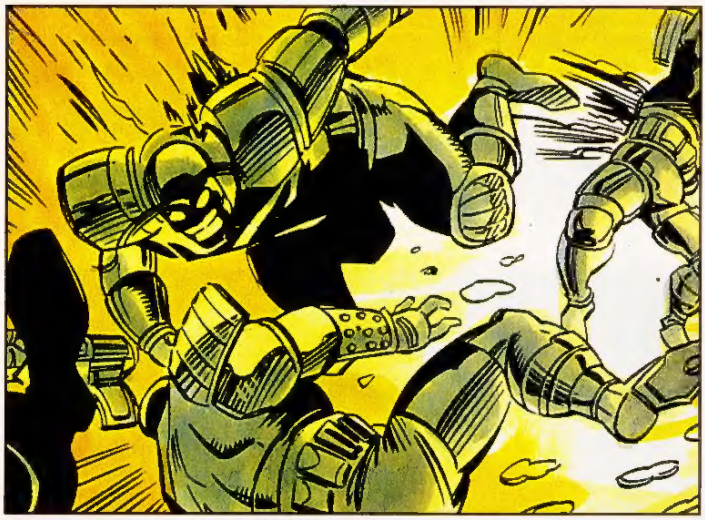
48 PG. BOOKSHELF WITH METALLIC INK COVER

When you're light years from the nearest civilized planet and laser fire is burning up the sky and your friends are dying in pools of blood all around you, there's only one place in the universe you can be: the latest adrenaline pumping adventure of the **Alien Legion.**

In typical Legion fashion, Nomad Squadron is sent off to check into rumors of a mysterious Vreel invasion force that's walking across the galaxy, taking over planets without firing a shot. Worse, they're leaving the population a bunch of mindless zombies. Nomad is, as usual, outnumbered, under-equipped, and commanded by a politician's lapdog without the sense to duck and cover in a firestorm. But when the atmosphere's crackling with ion beams, there's no better unit than Colonel Sarigar, Jugger Grimrod, Tamara and the latest addition to the Legion's band of misfits, No'or. No'or's got problems of his own - he's been contaminated by radiation to the point where he needs a protective suit to keep from killing his fellow legion-


GEAR UP AND LOAD ANY VEHICLE THAT CAN MOVE WITH EQUIPMENT WE'LL NEED.
BUT ONLY THE ESSENTIALS, ENOUGH FOOD AND LIQUIDS FOR TWO ROTATIONS.





"I COULD TAKE DOWN THE WHOLE LOT WITH A PISSPOT AND DULL CAMP SPOON!"

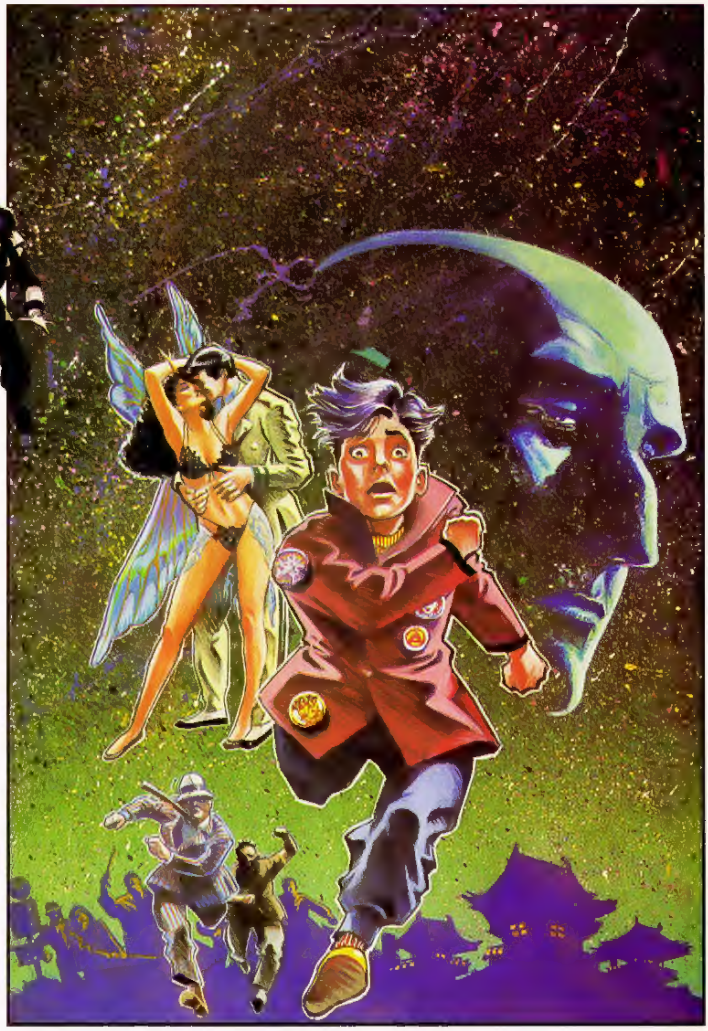
—JUGGER GRIMROD

naires. If you thought Grimrod was tough, No'or might surprise you. It's a sure bet he's gonna surprise Jugger.

One of the biggest reasons for the continuing popularity of **Alien Legion** is creator Carl Potts' ability to recruit new talent. Whilce Portacio, Terry Austin, Chris Warner and Larry Stroman have all cut their teeth on **Alien Legion,** and now Huang Nguyen is joining them under fire. He'll be penciling, Scott Hanna will be inking, and Larry Stroman is contributing two painted covers. Chuck Dixon has the job of filling the Legion's mouths with witticisms, obscenities and the battlefield philosophy that **Alien Legion** fans love.

If you're expecting **One Planet At A Time** to be just another **Alien Legion** title, don't get to settled in. Says Carl Potts, "In war, you can't pick and choose who will and who won't survive. Light years from home, on the frontier between civilization and barbarism, the battles are bloody. When the lasers flash and the fusion bombs fall, heroes die. Even old favorites aren't spared the realities of battle. Where one legionnaire falls, another rises to replace him. There's a never ending line of brave, desperate souls to fill the ranks. Legionnaires live rough and die hard, tough as tungsten and loyal to the dirty end."

OFFCASTES



Written and Illustrated by Mike Vosburg

THREE ISSUE LIMITED SERIES

EMBOSSED COVER WITH METALLIC INK

OFFCASTES is a fast paced thriller set in a far off future, where Earth is home to an elite class who rule fourteen satellite worlds, while enjoying privileges lowly "other-worlders" are denied. Out of this bleak and socially backward society comes Zak, the orphaned half-breed son of a "firstborn" from Earth and an other-worlder. Twelve year old Zak and his guardian, his uncle Grant, take a trip to the colonized planets to see the injustices imposed on them by the government first-hand. But when they witness the assassination of the holiest man in the universe, and one of them is considered a

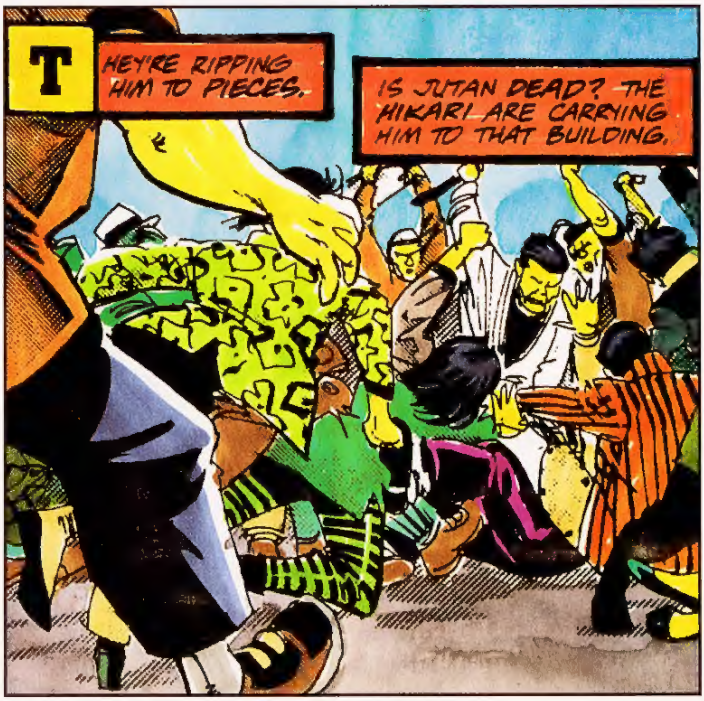
prime suspect, they flee for their lives. They cross paths with an exotic dancer - charming, beautiful, and mysterious, who befriends them while coming on to the rugged, good looking Grant.

Mike Vosburg, creator and writer/illustrator of **OFFCASTES**, had some very definite goals when he began this project. "In creating **OFFCASTES**, I wanted to do a period piece set in Asia in the early 20th century, but I didn't want to deal with the restrictions of history. Consequently it's set in a contrived future. The character Jutan is modeled after photographs of the mummy of Seti I, who Sax Rohmer always cited in his physical description of Fu Manchu. "Rash Young Man" is a pun on Kirasawa's "Rashomon". "Terry and the Pirates", Hitchcock, N.C. Wyeth, Robert Fawcett, and Howard Chaykin were all major influences on this project."

Mike also has strong opinions about his creation, and comics in general. But we'll let him tell you.

"Don't buy this book if you're not going to take it out of that plastic collector's bag. I want this book to be read, reread, stared at, pondered over... lent to a neighbor, a cousin, a friend... until it's dog-eared, thumb-printed, soda-stained, staple loosened, cover crinkled and sun faded. I want this book to be used and enjoyed because I'm proud of it. I'd rather draw like Toth than sell like McFarlane. Money is nice; respect is better."

AM I HALLUCINATING, OR IS THAT A PINT-SIZE DEMON WITH A PITCHFORK FLYING INTO THE CROWD?



SPYKE

Writer: Mike Baron
Artist: Bill Reinhold

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4 ISSUE LIMITED SERIES

EMBOSSED COVER WITH METALLIC INK

SPYKE is a hardboiled security contractor from Chicago who gets hired to protect a multibillionaire from eco-terrorists who want him dead for crimes against the planet. However, all is not what it seems. The terrorists are really a front for an evil alien clan, the U'Det. And the multibillionaire is a "gate", a human portal which makes inter-dimensional travel possible. Of course, to use a gate you have to sacrifice it during a precise ritual. **SPYKE** ends up following his client through the portal, and ends up stuck on Squall, the home planet of the U'Dets.The only way for **SPYKE** to get home is to kill a gate. But there are three problems with that: **SPYKE** doesn't know who's a gate and who's not; the wrong gate will send you to the wrong planet; and he's morally opposed to killing. A mysterious group called Kanal holds the answers, but they're not saying.

It's not an easy dilemma to resolve. According to writer Mike Baron, "**SPYKE** is a violent and cautionary tale about places so vile, people will do anything to escape, even murder. Six royal families rule over six hellish worlds, only one of which is actually habitable. Learning to invade Earth via ritual murder, they bring their rivalries and hatreds, threatening to tear our society apart. The hero, an American security expert, enters their domain by accident and learns to his horror that in order to return to Earth, he must kill his way through a series of escalating terrors which threaten to drive him mad. In **SPYKE**, I explore a hellish society where the only escape is to kill someone, preferably with a knife, thereby activating an inter-dimensional gate that could take you to an even worse place. They're not nice people. And the hero is essentially a decent man. So his dilemma becomes, should he become a killer to escape hell? And how do you find the right person to kill?"

WELCOME TO MY HOME. THIS CASTLE IS THE HOUSE OF U'DET. OUTSIDE THESE WALLS LIE MADNESS AND CHAOS PEOPLE WILL DO ANYTHING TO ESCAPE. ANYTHING. BUT SHORT OF DEATH, THERE IS ONLY ONE ESCAPE. TO KILL SOMEONE AND GO SOMEPLACE ELSE.

FEUD

Writer: Mike Baron
Artist: Mark Nelson

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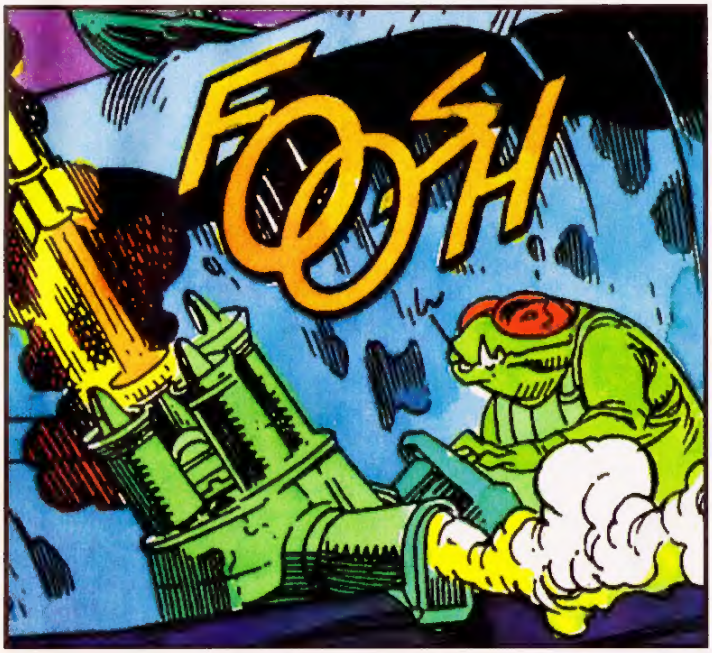
4 ISSUE LIMITED SERIES

EMBOSSED COVER WITH METALLIC INK

You are about to enter the world of **FEUD**. Set on the planet Smithback, a world divided into four city-states and inhabited by four different races. A world unlike any comic world you've ever visited, but despite all that, somehow familiar. Your tour guides are Mike Baron and Mark Nelson, so why not let them start the trip.

"Imagine a world with four highly intelligent but utterly distinct species who despise one another, but need each other to survive. The four species are thematically aligned with earth, air, fire and water. Each makes, farms, or performs some service that the others need. They must overcome their instinctive loathing to do business. Yet within each race, you find a wide range of recognizable types. The hothead, the vamp, the statesman, the coquette... Could they interact to survive? Or would animal nature lead to all out war?



"BUT THERE HASN'T BEEN A WAVE IN 815 AGES! THE SKIDS HAVE LOST THE KNOWLEDGE!"

"THEY HAVE FOUND IT AGAIN, OH CHIEF."

FEUD permits Mark Nelson and me the opportunity to explore a world with four intelligent species who hate each other's guts, but need each other to survive. The Kites are the air species; they make art. The Skids live in the sea and provide fish. The Grunts labor in the earth, providing the raw material for the Stokers to forge into machines. We wanted to create a cast of characters that was simultaneously alien and familiar. Just when you think you're getting to know someone, he, she or it goes berserk and takes a bite out of someone else's neck."

PUNISHER fans will recognize Mike Baron right away, but Mike's also the writer for another **HEAVY HITTER** premiering this month, SPYKE. And ALIENS connoisseurs will know Mark Nelson for his work on that title.

HEAVY HITTERS CHECKLIST

MAY

1ST WEEK

- ❑ Alien Legion: One Planet At A Time #1
- ❑ Untamed #2

2ND WEEK

- ❑ Off-castes #1
- ❑ Midnight Men #2

3RD WEEK

- ❑ Spyke #1
- ❑ The Trouble With Girls #2

4TH WEEK

- ❑ Feud #1
- ❑ Tor #2
- ❑ Dragon Lines #3
- ❑ Lawdog #3

MIDNIGHT MEN #2

HEAVY HITTING HUMOR FROM EPIC IN MAY:

❑ **LANCE BARNES, POST NUKE DICK**
#4 of 4
Writer: Steven Petrucha
Artist: Barry Crain

All good things must come to an end eventually! In the hilarious conclusion to this cataclysmic limited series, Lance faces his worst enemies yet— ex-bankers. They're out to force unwitting individuals to pay off the colossal national debt of the former United States. Pity Congress isn't around to pin the blame on anymore.

TOR #2

THE TROUBLE WITH GIRLS #2

UNTAMED #2

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